Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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R 191137Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8062
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USCINCEUR VAININGEN GERMANY

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 0539

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PEPR, AG, FR

SUBJECT: ALGERIAN-FRENCH RELATIONS: GOA RESPONSE TO GISCARD'S

PROPOSALS

- 1. ON FEB 13 FONMIN SECY GEN SBIH SUMMONED FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE COMMINES TO DELIVER GOA'S "RESPONSE" TO GISCARD'S FEB 9 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE PROPOSED SETTING UP OF JOINT COMMISSIONS TO DEAL WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. COMMINES INFORMS US THAT SBIH SAID PROPOSALS WERE FINE BUT DID NOT ADDRESS MAIN PROBLEM BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WHICH REMAINS FRENCH ROLE IN SAHARA WAR. ALL OTHER ISSUES SECONDARY, ACCORDING TO SBIH, AND COMMINES WAS LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FURTHER GOA ACTION ON PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME.
- 2. DESPITE THIS SEEMINGLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE, COMMINES PROFESSES HIMSELF LESS THAN TOTALLY DISCOURAGED. HE NOTES THAT UNOFFICIAL ALGERIAN REACTION TO GISCARD'S PROPOSALS WAS MORE POSITIVE THAN CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIAL VERSION. PAUL BALTA, LOCAL LE MONDE CORRESPONDENT, REACHES SAME CONCLUSION IN A FEB 14 ARTICLE. COMMINES NOTES THAT AS LATE AS DECEMBER, ALGERIANS HAD BEEN CONSIDERING SENDING MESSENGER TO FRANCE TO REPLY TO GOF'S MESSAGE ON HOSTAGES AND SAHARA SITUATION DELIVERED IN OCTOBER. HOWEVER, BOTH COMMINES AND BALTA INDICATE THAT MOST IMPORTANT POLITICAL FACT OF LIFE IS FRENCH ELECTION. THEY BELIEVE

THAT	THERE	WILL	BE FEW	FURTHER	INITIA	TIVES	ON EITHE	R SIDE
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Message Attributes

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